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Monday, March 11, 2013

THE MORNING NEWS

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Alert Long period swells to affect Aruba

ORANJESTAD -- A frontal system on the Atlantic can influence Aruba's waters this week. Be advised that from March 11 to 15 long period northerly swells will influence Aruba. Due to Aruba's bathymetry some of these swells will refract and make the seas near the hotel area choppy from time to time. Most impacted area will be low-rise hotel area. Expect sea transparency to drop and some breakers mainly near the low-rise area and Malmok area. On the northern shores expect rough conditions with rip current.

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HRH Princess Laurentien in exclusive interview to THE MORNING NEWS

The 2nd Aruba Women's Conference on Friday March 8, International Women's Day, was proud to welcome HRH Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands as their keynote speaker. She stirred the audience with her impassioned address and belief regarding creativity and credibility of youth, and concern for their future.

Princess Laurentien is the daughter of Former Dutch Minister of Economic Affairs, Laurens Brinkhorst. Her advanced studies included History, and has a BA in Political Science from University of London and a Masters Degree in Journalism from the University of California, Berkeley. She married HRH Prince Constantijn, the third and youngest son of HRM Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, in 2001 and they have three children.

Princess Laurentien has been a staunch advocate of literacy and the potential of children all her adult life. She was appointed UNESCO Special Envoy on "Literacy for Development," due to her "profound dedication to the Organization's Ideals." She was a co-recipient of the Major Bosshardt Prize in 2010 for her work in combating illiteracy. She also holds the Chair of the European Cultural Foundation and the Dutch Reading and Writing Foundation, among many positions pertaining to children's educational advancement.

HRH Princess Laurentien first visited Aruba in 2012 to present the second in a series of children's books she has authored, "Mr. Finny and the Other Side of the Water," which has been translated into Papiamentu. The series' main character is a very curious and friendly dolphin. Her books are aimed at teaching



TMN reporter Rosalie Klein with HRH Princess Laurentien

children to learn tolerance for different people and respect for the environment. Climate change and preserving the environment has become another of her principal concerns, and she is now part of a program to encourage youth to bring these concerns and solutions home to their families. TMN was honored to sit with her at the Divi Phoenix and discuss these issues.

TMN: Was Aruba a surprise for you on your first visit? Was it different than what you may have perceived as a Caribbean nation?

HRH Princess Laurentien: I don't think so. What was important when I came here for the first time was,

what we thought through, was what I could bring to the amazing energy here on Aruba, which is usually the way I work. It's not about me, it's not about Mr. Finney, but we can be a catalyst, we can help...What was already going on that we could bring together?

I felt that by the time I arrived, thanks to the great cooperation of the government and Alice (van Romondt of the Ministry of Culture) it all fell together very naturally. I visited schools, I talked to people from the sustainability field and it was really fantastic. I am not a person who keeps preconceived notions.

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The community is more aware of mosquito brewing locations



One of the government departments which travel weekly through our Barrios is the department for the extermination of yellow fever mosquitoes (Gele Koorts Muskietenbestrijding). The representatives of this department make every effort to educate citizens on the need to be cautious with respect to mosquito brewing locations.

According to Sigmar Betancourt of the department for the extermination of yellow fever mosquitoes, everything is moving along nicely and we are keeping a constant control. He indicated that the situation is better now than before, especially now that the rainy season has passed.

His experience has shown that our citizens have become much more conscious compared to the past. He still encounters some brewing spots here and there in homes with tires, buckets or barrels containing water. Whenever they encounter these on more than two occasions at the same residence the residents are warned and then they treat the water with a special substance and of course all containers are turned upside down.

In general our people have become very conscious of the situation and are making sure that there are no brewing spots in their yards. People have no fear of the visits by the department.

Former Astronaut Wubbo Ockels visits ISA students

Ever since his arrival here on board his Ecolution Yacht, former Astronaut Wubbo Ockels has been spreading his message of a safer world for this generation and for the future...create sustainable management and save our planet! According to Ockels, "it is not our space that is unique, it is our world, and we must conserve it."

In the presence of over 75 students at the International School of Aruba, Wubbo Ockels gave an impressive presentation of the reasons



we should work towards ensuring that we have a better tomorrow. He had students listen to a recording of NASA and the space shuttle during the time that he was in space. He explained to students how that in space there is no gravity, everything floats. Even the Orange Juice they drank became like a ball floating in air. For the astronauts to be able to sleep they had to be tied down. In space everything is dark and there is no life. But when they look outside at the world, there is life there. The world is very unique, not space, this is why we must protect and preserve our world.

Ockels encouraged students to begin implementing solar panels at their homes.

ing the way we produce energy. Ockels surprised the students with the statement, "I can tell you that one bottle of water of one liter can produce electricity for the entire island of Aruba for one year!"

Ockels then showed pictures of vehicles running on solar energy that they used for a competition in Australia, and, a bus that is currently under construction that will use clean energy. Ockels appealed to the students to try developing sustainable energy projects at school.

Continued on page 5

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HRH Princess Laurentien in exclusive interview to TMN

Continued from page 1

TMN: What was your impression of the island upon your first visit?

HRH Princess Laurentien: There are many things I love about Aruba. One is the sense of hospitality; true, authentic deeply-ingrained, sincere hospitality. This is a symbol of a mindset, and the mindset is "we are part of something bigger. We are part of the Netherlands, part of the Caribbean, part of a world." This is why the "Green Vision" is so inspiring. so important and feels so natural.

The sense of tremendous energy you have here: the number of NGO's and initiatives at community level and this sense of "can do." I see people always looking for opportunities, possibilities and not thinking about all the reasons why you shouldn't be doing something. I feel Aruba has everything, given the fact

that you have a small scale, but ultimately a big reach. You have it all to make the ambitions of the Green Vision happen. I said in my Women's Day speech that the one danger is the fragmentation.

TMN: So instead of everyone going off in different tangents, there is a need to focus that energy for cooperation and collaboration?

HRH Princess Laurentien: Yes. I think achieving green ambitions is like putting together one gigantic jigsaw puzzle. I believe all the pieces of the puzzle already exist in Aruba. The scalability and the true impact will be about connecting all the pieces of the puzzle.

TMN: What inspired you to create the series of "Mr. Finny" books?

HRH Princess Laurentien: I had been working on sustainability for many years,

but more from a strategic point of view; working with NGO's and corporations. Then, in 2007 I had read that the Russians had planted a flag 4000 meters under the ice if the North Pole. This ignited in me a sense of amazement, which I find children also have, of "why are we doing this?" This flag became a symbol for me of how we are treating the planet. If you think of the Arctic as a symbol of the earth, we really should all have a sense of responsibility. What happens to the Arctic region has an impact on the entire planet.

We should keep in mind Antarctica, where all countries agreed this, is an area in the interest of all mankind. (The Antarctic Treaty System, ATS, was established in 1961 and currently has 50 signatory nations. The parameters declare the continent a scientific preserve, guaranteeing freedom of



Princess Laurentien appreciates a gift from TMN Reporter

scientific investigation and bans military activity.) I have

the same sense for the Arctic. This "why" is a question we need to ask a lot more often. For me, it is a moral question.

I felt we needed a totally different way for handling this debate. Yes, discussion of policies is very important, but first, I wanted to develop a book around morality. I was struggling with the concept, then I started reading about what children and young people are saying about the planet. I was missing this authentic, "Why" that children and young people still have in them. It was as if they are trying to be adults, but their authentic voice, which we so need, wasn't there. So I thought if I develop a children's book that gives them that anchor to have that dialog, that platform to voice their Why Questions to adults, as it needed to be a reading aloud book, then maybe it can create another kind of dialog.

TMN: Do you find this next generation, at a surprising young age, is showing such concern about the planet they will inherit?

HRH Princess Laurentien: Absolutely. I find this next generation is better informed, more concerned and is very motivated to do something. It is innately there.



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HRH Princess Laurentien in exclusive interview to TMN

Continued from page 3

All we need to do is empower them, give them the tools to make it happen and give them the podium to actually speak up. Perhaps we too quickly may make the mistake of giving them decision power, as I think, it is still adults, in power in companies and governments who ultimately make decisions. But we can still use this innate motivation, this thinking power of children to make us think differently, and come up with new directions for new solutions, which we all know are needed. We are also breaking through this inter-generation lock in, we have to stimulate children that this is the right way of thinking. This is how we are creating new leaders and new mindsets.

HRH Princess Laurentien explained "Children are teaching me that ultimately, in order to affect change, you have to understand why people are motivated to do something that is right for the planet, or not right for the planet. If you understand that, you are one step further forward in tapping into that motivation. If we can bring out those insights, that understanding, because they have it, that understanding of what



motivates people, they come up with very creative solutions. That is my idea, taking that input, giving it a platform and connecting it to the processes and decisions in the adult world, where we can actually use it."

"As adults, we often step over this very important understanding of why people are motivated yes or no. Then people feel as if they can't do anything. When it comes to the environment they feel ineffectual, "What does it matter? What can I, as one person do for the environment?" A good example is this campaign we have with WWF and Unilever, ("Shower 5 Minutes Less" being promoted in a test group of Dutch schools) adults would call this a "warm water reduction campaign." For children, the point of action is 5 minutes less of showering. Well, let's focus on that; that is the action. All the other stuff, which is the effect, what we ultimately which to achieve, we separate. We send them on a mission: have the dialog and have the action within your family. If you then multiply that by a hundred schools, thousands and thousands of families, you actually start to

scale it up."

"Ultimately, all these actions of change for consumers are really simple things. We have to multiply it by millions of people, but the actual individual actions over our energy sources are ultimately really simple."

"This is where the jigsaw puzzle comes together," pointed HRH Princess Laurentien. "Technological transitions take longer. It is an and/or story; it is never an either/or story. So AND consumer behavior, AND green technologies, AND perhaps financing mechanisms, AND insuring we have the right policies that stimulate investments in green energy, they are all part of the jigsaw puzzle. No one should underestimate the power of the individual family to make a difference."

"This is where, and specifically in Aruba, the tremendous opportunities exist in connecting the tourism industry and the tourists," she concluded. The local community and tourist community should not be separate. Through connecting children, who are so easy at this, even if they don't speak the same language. By giving a sense to the children, who in all my discussions with the local young people I find them so motivated to do the right thing for their island which they are so proud of. If you find a way of empowering them to bring that motivation to the children of families visiting the island, than magic can happen. If it can be conceptualized in the right way, then Aruba can really make a difference. I hope to work with many different organizations here to make that happen."

Rosalie Klein

Mr. David Lambert wins \$1,686,29 at the Aura Casino!



Mr. David Lambert found his lucky streak in the newly renovated Aura Casino "where players win." He won a total amount of \$1,686,29 at the Aura Casino at the Occidental Grand while playing on the brand new slot machine "Wild Blue". Staff & Management congratulate Mr. Lambert on his great win. The center of Aruba has definitely shifted here at the Aura Casino, which happens to be smack-dab in the middle of all the action on Palm Beach. Come and try your luck, maybe you can be one of Aura Casino's next lucky winners!

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Local youth presents rhythmical musical clip recorded here



"The Record Men," a local musical group just recently presented their contagious recording clip called 'The Rhythm.' This is a production of Stefen Bartels Daal together with Patrick Graham. The production and filming of the project took place right here on Aruba.

Actors in the production are model Faisuli Torres, dancers of Step by Step Dance Academy and a backdrop of beautiful landscapes of Aruba, making the clip a delight to watch.

"The Rhythm" is a combination of Latin/Caribbean music with Electric House and Soul.

In the song attributes of our

island, such as happiness and joy resound. Hence, Aruba is the perfect place for filming such a production. The authors of the song believe that it was important to integrate our island with its culture in the clip. This is also very obvious when you watch the video clip. What's more, you will also see the different beautiful places around the island. To see the clip online, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5v7CmKybFdM>.

The Aruba Tourism Authority supports this type of project where talented young people in combination with their education can promote our island.

Former Astronaut Wubbo Ockels . . .

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The ISA showed Ockels a gardening project they have recently begun as a pilot project, producing vegetables and fruit organically.

Professor Dr. Ockels is here on Aruba with his Yacht Ecoluton which propels

green energy and uses the extra energy for all other necessities, such as warm water, oven, and a refrigerator during their voyage. He crossed the Atlantic from Europe to Aruba without using any combustible fossil fuel.

Ockels is working together with the Aruba BOAruba team on making students aware of the importance of using green energy, on the benefits of recycling actions and on the damage that fossil fuels cause our environment.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

UN: Syrian refugees may double or triple this year

ANKARA (AFP) - The number of Syrian refugees, already past the million mark, could double or triple by the end of the year if no solution is found to the conflict, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees said yesterday.

Antonio Guterres said the UNHCR could only "mitigate" the suffering of the people but the responsibility to find a solution fell on "those that have political responsibilities."

"Now if this escalation goes on and nothing happens to solve the problem we might have in the end of the year a much larger number of refugees: twice or three times the present level," Guterres told reporters in Ankara.

The warning came days after the UN said the number of Syrian refugees had hit one million, two years after the revolt erupted.

A year ago, the UN agency had only registered 33,000 refugees, but the numbers escalated as the war intensified, sending waves of refugees into neighbouring countries.

"Everything depends

whether we'll have or not a political solution," Guterres said. "But we need to be prepared for a very strong increase of the present numbers."

The commissioner said the average daily arrivals in neighbouring countries were on the constant rise as the numbers increased from 3,000 refugees in December to 8,000 in February.

"This shows you the staggering escalation that we are witnessing," he said.

The conflict, which according to UN figures has cost 70,000 lives, needs be stopped while the international community still has the capacity to respond to it, he added.

Guterres is in Turkey to meet officials and discuss the situation of the more than 180,000 refugees who have taken shelter in several camps set up along Turkey-Syria border.

Ankara says the real number is much higher as at least 70,000 others live in houses they have rented elsewhere in Turkey.

Venezuela sets first post-Chavez election for April 14

CARACAS (AFP) - Venezuelan political parties began registering candidates yesterday for a snap election on April 14, setting the stage for a bruising campaign to succeed the late president Hugo Chavez.

The national electoral council set the poll date on Saturday one day after Nicolas Maduro, Chavez's handpicked successor, was sworn in as acting president in a ceremony largely boycotted by the opposition, which slammed it as unconstitutional.

Shortly after the date was set, the main opposition coalition announced it had unanimously chosen Henrique Capriles, who lost to Chavez in the October election, as its unity candidate again.

"We have all recognized Henrique Capriles Radonski as the person to embody this option of change," said Ramon Guillermo Avello, executive secretary of the Democratic Unity Roundtable (MUD).

Capriles wrote on Twitter that he was "grateful" for the offer and would announce soon whether he will accept the nomination. The Miranda state governor was picked by the MUD last year in an unprecedented primary.

Political hostilities had already begun just hours after Venezuela and more than 30 foreign leaders gave Chavez a rousing state funeral, with Maduro railing against the opposition and capitalism following his inauguration.

Emulating his late mentor's combative style, the former vice president vowed "absolute loyalty" to Chavez before donning the presidential sash, his voice cracking as he declared: "Sorry for our pain and tears; but this presidency belongs to our Comandante."

Before Maduro was sworn in, Capriles denounced the inauguration as a "constitutional fraud" and abuse of power by the government.

The electoral council said candidates will be able to register on Sunday and Monday and that the campaign would be short, lasting from April 2 to April 11.

Chavez will cast a huge shadow over the election, which will almost coincide with a key anniversary in his political history.

The late leader was briefly ousted on April 11, 2002, in a coup that was organized by the chamber of commerce and the trade union with the help of some military officials. But he was restored to power by loyal soldiers on April 13 amid popular protests.

The government plans to embalm and preserve Chavez "like Lenin" to rest in a glass casket "for eternity," a move decried by the opposition, which claimed that it went

against the president's wish to be buried.

Thousands of Venezuelans, meanwhile, continued to file past the open casket of the fire-brand leader at a military academy, in a prolonged farewell to the man whose socialist revolution heightened class tensions in the country of 29 million.

Maduro has vowed to press on with Chavez's revolution, an oil-funded policy that has provided massive and popular health, education and housing programs to the poor while angering the wealthy with expropriations and nationalizations.

A recent survey by pollsters Hinterlaces gave Maduro a 14-point advantage over Capriles, though the opposition leader has questioned the firm's reliability in the past.



NUSAIRAT -- AFP photo shows Bedouin boys playing along a strip of land in between of a garbage dump and a water way in a deprived area of the central Palestinian Gaza Strip, close to Nusairat, on March 10, 2013. There are around 160,000 Bedouin in Israel, most of whom live in and around the Negev desert in the country's arid south.

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International News

Cardinals celebrate masses in Rome ahead of conclave

VATICAN CITY (AFP) - Cardinals set for a conclave this week to elect a new leader for the world's 1.2 billion Catholics celebrated masses across Rome on Sunday, as parishioners picked their papal favourites.

"This Sunday is also very special to us because we are preparing for the conclave, the Catholic world is united in prayer," US cardinal Sean O'Malley, who is seen as a possible contender for the papacy, said in his homily.

"Let us pray that the Holy Spirit enable the Church to choose a new pope who will confirm us in our faith and make more visible the love of the Good Shepherd," O'Malley told parishioners in Santa Maria della Vittoria church.

O'Malley based his homily on the Biblical parable of the Prodigal Son, who runs away from home but is welcomed back with open arms by his father.

"People leave the Father, the Church, for many reasons -- ignorance, a poor welcome, negative experiences, scandals, spiritual mediocrity," he said, in apparent reference to a key

challenge for the Church -- rising secularism.

Father Stefano Guernelli, rector of the ornate Baroque church in central Rome told O'Malley: "I hope this is the last time you come here as a cardinal and I hope that if you are elected pontiff this will be the first church that you visit."

The Church's 115 "cardinal electors" will meet for a conclave in the Sistine Chapel starting on Tuesday. The field is still seen by Vatican experts as wide open but one favourite has emerged -- Italian cardinal Angelo Scola.

The conservative theologian celebrated mass in the Church of the Twelve Holy Apostles, surrounded by dozens of cameramen and photographers.

"I think he is a good man, he would be a fine leader to help strengthen the Church. I am praying for him," said 69-year-old parishioner Maria Bettini.

Salvatore Mercurio, 57, a taxi driver, said: "Today is a chance to show Cardinal Scola our solidarity as he prepares for the conclave, it is a momentous event but he has the courage and grace to face it with serenity."

Britain, Italy, Greece say hostages killed in Nigeria

LONDON (AFP) - Britain, Italy and Greece on Sunday said that a claim by a Nigerian Islamist group that it had killed seven foreign hostages appeared to be true, while London denied it had sought to stage a rescue.

Restive northern Nigeria has seen scores of people killed from Islamist-linked violence, but the hostage executions marked the deadliest kidnapping targeting foreigners in the region in recent memory.

The Ansaru group on Saturday announced the deaths of all the expatriates abducted from a construction site of Lebanese company Setraco on February 16 in Bauchi state in Nigeria's restive north.

The group Ansaru said in its statement announcing the

deaths that it carried out the executions in part because British planes had arrived in Nigeria in recent weeks to attempt a rescue, citing local media reports.

Ansaru, considered an offshoot of the Nigerian Islamist group Boko Haram, backed up its claim with "screen captures of a forthcoming video showing the dead hostages," SITE Intelligence Group said.

Nigeria police last month said the hostages were four Lebanese, one Briton, a Greek citizen and an Italian. A company official later said the Middle Eastern hostages included two Lebanese and two Syrians.

British Foreign Secretary William Hague said all the hostages were "likely to have been killed" by their captors.

The Italian foreign ministry in a statement branded it "a horrific act of terrorism for which there is no explanation except barbaric and blind violence."

The Greek foreign ministry also said the "available information suggests that the Greek citizen abducted in Nigeria alongside six nationals of other

countries is dead."

In an email statement sent to journalists announcing the kidnapping two days later, Ansaru said the motives were "the transgressions and atrocities done to the religion of Allah... by the European countries in many places such as Afghanistan and Mali".

Ansaru also claimed the December kidnapping of a French engineer in Katsina state, bordering Niger. The victim's whereabouts remain unknown.

Seven members of a French family, including four children, were also abducted last month in Cameroon, and Cameroon authorities said they were then taken over the border into restive northeastern Nigeria. Their whereabouts also remain unknown.

Ansaru has appeared to focus specifically on kidnapping foreigners, though it has not been known to have claimed the abduction of the French family.

Nigeria is Africa's most populous nation and largest oil producer, roughly divided between a mainly Muslim north and predominately Christian south.



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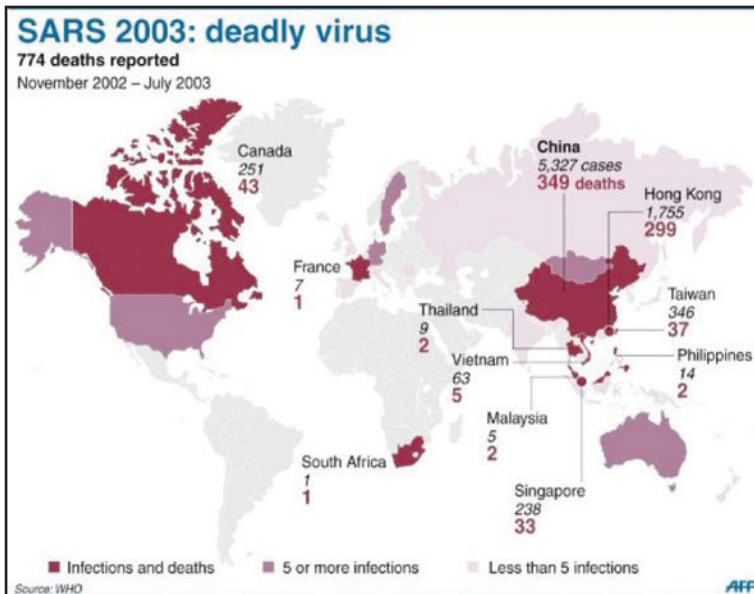
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Health & Living

What have we learnt from SARS?



PARIS (AFP) - A decade ago, a highly contagious and deadly new illness sent people worldwide scrambling to cancel flights and holidays as schools closed and sales of surgical masks spiked.

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) was the first "new" disease of the 21st century to jump from an animal host to humans, then easily from one person to another.

It caught the world unawares and exposed health system weaknesses in an era in which people are ever more exposed to strange, new viruses lurking in hitherto undisturbed places.

The outbreak was contained within months with about 800 deaths, settling fears of a plague-like global wipeout but also yielding important lessons for the future.

"The experience from the first SARS outbreak is helping us now," virologist John Oxford from the Queen Mary University of London told AFP.

The world is currently dealing with another coronavirus like the one that caused SARS which has killed eight people

since it was first detected in mid-2012.

The most important lessons cited by experts include information sharing, rapidly raising the global alert, and finding and containing the outbreak source.

"We have learnt that it is important to say what we know," Isabelle Nuttall, director of the alert and response department at the World Health Organisation (WHO) told AFP.

A lack of communication was a key criticism of the handling of the 2003 outbreak, with China accused of trying to cover it up.

Since then, the world has adopted International Health Regulations, said Nuttall, which bind all countries to report any severe, new disease with spread potential.

SARS also showed it is easy to overreact -- millions of people were screened at airports with little or no success.

Flights were cancelled as panic spread, tens of thousands of people were placed in quarantine in Asia and Canada, and hundreds of schools were closed -- all

measures whose usefulness are now questioned.

The World Bank says these steps cost the world some \$54 billion (41 billion euros at today's rates), much of it in lost tourism revenue.

In fact, simple hygiene -- washing your hands and masking your cough -- turned out to be a much more effective deterrent, according to Oxford.

"Everyone thought it was perhaps bigger than it was," he said of the way SARS was handled.

SARS infected about 8,000 people around the world, claiming most of its victims in Hong Kong, Taiwan, mainland China, Canada and Singapore.

The first case was detected in China's Guangdong province in November 2002 but information about it was not released until February 2003.

On March 12 that year, the WHO issued a global SARS alert. By July, it declared the outbreak contained.

We may not be so lucky next time, say the experts.

The odds of a new outbreak multiply each year as more and more globetrotters are exposed to strange new pathogens before going home to ever-more-crowded cities and towns where disease can spread quickly.

The corona virus that caused SARS, for example, is believed to have moved from bats, to rats to civets -- once a popular delicacy in southern China.

SARS was followed by the 2009-2010 H1N1 "swine flu" pandemic, which scientists said infected more than a fifth of the world's people and may have killed as many as 250,000 -- about the yearly seasonal flu toll.

Possible link found between salt, autoimmune disease



PARIS (AFP) - A high-salt diet may be a risk factor for autoimmune diseases like multiple sclerosis (MS), according to three papers published in the journal Nature on Wednesday.

Two of the studies showed that salt can induce the production of aggressive cells involved in autoimmune disease development in mice and humans, while a third indicated that mice on high-salt diets develop a type of disease similar to human MS.

The international teams of scientists cautioned that these are early results that warrant further investigation.

In two studies in mice and human cells, scientists showed that salt boosted the development of a type of immune cell known as T helper 17, or Th17, that has been implicated in dis-

eases like MS, psoriasis and rheumatoid arthritis.

Autoimmune diseases develop when the immune system attacks rather than protects the host.

Other researchers found they could induce more severe forms of autoimmune diseases, and at higher rates, in mice fed a diet higher in salt than others.

"It's not just salt, of course," said author Vijay Kuchroo, co-director of the Center for Infection and Immunity at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

"Salt could be one more thing on the list of predisposing environmental factors that may promote the development of autoimmunity."

In a comment on the three companion papers, John O'Shea of the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases in Bethesda, Maryland, and Russel Jones of McGill University in Canada, called the findings "exciting and provocative".

But they reiterated it was premature to state that salt could cause autoimmune disease.

"This work should spur investigation of tangible links between diet and autoimmune disease in people," they wrote.



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Sci-Tech

Internet freedom showdown looming: US

GENEVA (AFP) - A number of countries are aggressively trying to control the Internet, a top US diplomat cautioned, insisting Washington would give no ground when it comes to curbing freedoms on the Web.

The fact that many countries appeared to be investing heavily, "billions and billions of dollars", in next generation surveillance technologies was an indication of their intentions to clamp down on Internet freedoms, Alec Ross, the State Department's outgoing senior adviser on innovation, told reporters in Geneva.

The clamp-down was coming amid a clear shift of power all over the world from governments and other state hierarchies towards citizens and networks of citizens, he said during his last press conference before leaving his government position.

The fear of losing power and control was evident at a UN gathering in Dubai last December, where 89 countries signed a controversial new global treaty on telecom regulations, Ross said, insisting that the US refusal to sign that

treaty should be seen as its "refusal to give any ground on Internet freedom."

He said he was "pessimistic" about the chances of the world's nations quickly reaching agreement on what they want the Web to look like going forward.

The US, he said, was aggressively working to help ensure Internet freedom around the world and had invested over \$100 million over the past four years in projects aimed at helping counter crack-down measures from oppressive regimes.

Among the projects was one aimed at creating new networks when regimes try to strangle bandwidth and shut down mobile networks when they face protests, as was the case in Iran and in Egypt during the Arab Spring uprisings.

Another project, Ross said, was aimed at helping activists who fear arrest and torture to quickly wipe clean their mobile phones and transfer their data and contact lists to secure locations in a cloud to ensure their phones aren't used to track other activists.



JAPAN (AFP) - Pictures found in debris of the March 11 earthquake and tsunami disasters are on display at the Tsukidate elementary school in Kesennuma, Miyagi prefecture on March 10, 2013. Today marks the second anniversary of the 9.0 magnitude earthquake that sent a huge wall of water into the coast of the Tohoku region, splintering whole communities, ruining swathes of prime farmland and killing nearly 19,000 people.

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Dust storm shrouds Tokyo in haze



TOKYO (AFP) - A huge dust storm hit Tokyo Sunday, blanketing the city with brown dust that darkened the skies and rapidly transformed what had been a clear and sunny day.

Visibility in the capital deteriorated quickly as dry dust particles whirled through the air.

Meteorologists said the phenomenon was caused by a

sudden cold front, and was not linked with the suffocating pollution that hung over the Chinese capital Beijing last winter.

"A rapidly developing low pressure system in the north was moving down south. It was bringing a snow storm in the north, and strong winds in Tokyo and surrounding areas,"

said a meteorologist at the Japan Meteorological Agency.

The phenomenon was expected to be temporary, and rain should strip the dust from the air, he said.

Japan and other regional countries have voiced concern about the impact of airborne pollution drifting from their influential neighbor.

The toxic haze that periodically blankets parts of China has been

blamed on emissions from coal burning in power stations but also on fumes from vehicles on the traffic-clogged streets of the world's largest largest auto market.

Media reports have said that environment ministers from Japan, China and South Korea will meet in May will discuss ways to combat air pollution.

COMICS



CROSSWORD



CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. "X-Files" org.
4. Accountants (abbr.)
8. Dads
11. TV room
12. Dwell (on)
13. Nancy Drew's pal
14. Brightness
16. Kelly of morning TV
17. Make a lap
18. Pigeon murmur
20. Modify
23. Mexican party decorations
27. A ___ trifle
28. Last-term politician (2 wds.)
29. Actress Longoria
30. Changes places
31. Done ___ turn (2 wds.)
32. Yale's town (2 wds.)
34. Wrongful act, legally
35. Detained
36. Novelist Jules
37. Ship's letters
38. Average stroke total
39. On the lam, military style
42. First to arrive
47. Legumes
48. Skin lotion additive
49. Reagan Jr.'s nickname
50. No longer

working (abbr.)

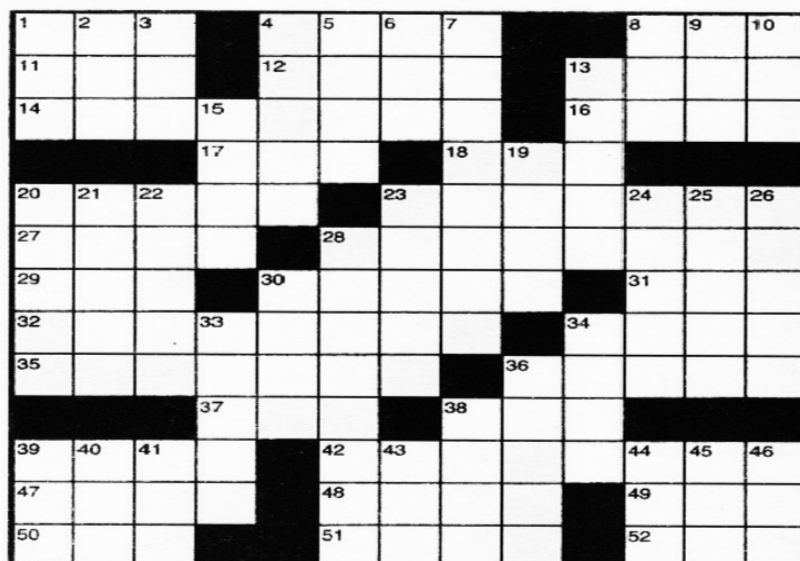
51. Dick Tracy's wife
52. Toiling insect

DOWN

1. HST's preceder
2. "Don't ___ wet blanket!" (2 wds.)
3. Ky.'s neighbor
4. Recliner, e.g.
5. Breathe quickly
6. Circle section
7. Sample
8. Canadian prov.
9. Cleopatra's snake
10. Retirement benefit agcy.
13. Having ample width
15. "Peekaboo, ___ you!" (2 wds.)
19. Washington bills
20. Change the Constitution
21. Embankment
22. Fish with a net
23. Unlike a dirt road
24. Teach individually
25. Future oak
26. Use Rollerblades
28. Small sofa (2 wds.)
30. Baseball legend Willie ___
33. Tows

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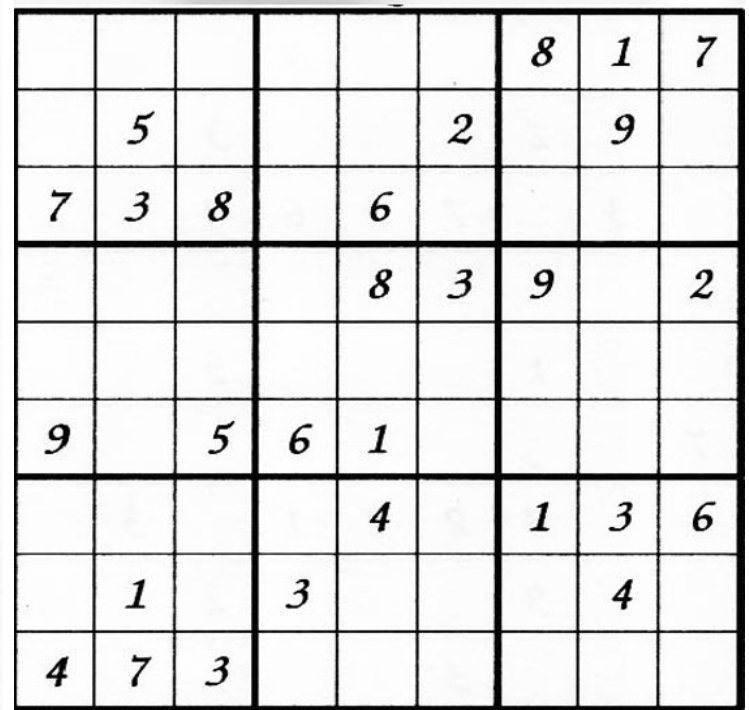
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Sudoku



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6	7	1	8	3	5	9	1	5
9	5	1	2	7	5	2	6	8
8	2	4	7	1	9	5	2	6
1	9	7	6	5	2	2	8	3
2	5	6	8	2	1	7	9	
7	2	5	1	9	6	8	3	4
3	6	9	2	1	8	7	5	1
4	1	8	5	3	7	6	9	2

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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FINANCE

Ryan: New House Republican budget includes ObamaCare repeal


Wisconsin Rep. Paul Ryan, chairman of the House Budget Committee, said yesterday that his new budget includes the repeal of President Obama's health-care reform law known as ObamaCare.

Ryan told "Fox News Sunday" that the new proposal will make enough cuts to balance the federal budget in 10 years, compared to his previous one that tried to achieve that goal in 25 years.

Ryan said the focus of the ObamaCare repeal would be to stop the expansion of Medicaid, the federal program that provides medical services to low-income U.S. families.



MADRID, Spain -- Photo above shows tens of thousands of demonstrators marching in dozens of Spanish cities yesterday to protest sky-high unemployment, what they say is the government's inefficient handling of the economy and corruption scandals, including one engulfing the royal family. Rallies have been organized in Madrid and 60 other cities yesterday by 150 organizations including trade unions representing the construction, car and television industries as well as police and health services. Spain's unemployment rate is at a staggering 26 percent and the economy is immersed in its second recession in three years, with many young graduates and qualified professionals emigrating to find jobs elsewhere.



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U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
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Canada	CAD	1.71	1.73	1.75
Britain	GBP	2.61	2.66	2.72
Switzerland	CHF	188.53	189.25	190.05
Netherlands	EUR	231.03	233.14	235.48
Sweden	SEK	27.03	27.75	28.55
Denmark	DKK	30.30	31.02	31.82
Norway	NOK	30.36	31.08	31.88
Japan	JPY	184.09	185.77	187.64

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Obama dials down budget blame in new tack on deficit fight

WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama said he is looking for compromise in the coming months to end a two-year fight with Congress over how to reduce the deficit, promising Americans that he will try to find common ground with lawmakers.

Turning away from the sharp rhetoric he has used in recent weeks to blame Republicans for \$85 billion in government spending cuts that took effect March 1, Obama on the weekend highlighted how he is working with lawmakers in Congress.


"The fact is, America is a nation of different beliefs and different points of view. That's what makes us strong, and frankly, makes our democratic debates messy and often frustrating," Obama said. "But ultimately what makes us special is when we summon the ability to see past those differences."

The warm and fuzzy message contrasted sharply with Obama's radio addresses from the past two weeks, when he blasted Republicans for protecting the rich and hurting the middle class and accused them of "partisan recklessness."

"We just need Republicans in Congress to catch up with their own party and the rest of the country," he said last week.

But last week, Obama turned on a charm offensive, having lunch with Paul Ryan, the Republican chairman of the House Budget Committee and the party's 2012 vice presidential nominee, and dinner with a dozen Republican senators. He described the meeting with senators as "an open and honest conversation" that he plans to continue this week, when he plans to visit Capitol Hill four times.

Obama said he will talk about immigration reform and new gun control proposals in the meetings, as well as the deficit. His visits come during a week when both chambers are slated to unveil their budget plans for 2014, and the Senate also considers ways to adjust spending for the rest of 2013 to try to ease the impact of the March 1 "sequester" cuts.



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Wedding budgets blossom as economy improves



CHICAGO -- Wedding budgets that could break the bank appear to be back in vogue, U.S. wedding experts say.

XO Group Inc., creator of leading wedding websites, TheKnot.com and Wedding Channel.com, said a survey of more than 17,500 U.S. brides married in 2012, suggests couples are feeling more comfortable spending a boatload of cash on their big day.

The average wedding last year cost \$28,427, up from \$27,021 in 2011, and that doesn't even include the honeymoon. The survey found about 1 in 8 brides (13 percent) are spending more than \$40,000 on their nuptials, and nearly 1 in 4 (23 percent) said they didn't even have a budget.

"In 2011, budgets increased for the first time since the economic downturn, and this past year, in 2012, we saw that wedding budgets are continuing to rise even more and to an all-time high since 2008," Carley Roney, co-founder of TheKnot, said. "Couples are increasingly less concerned with the economy and are comfortable investing more than ever in the once-in-a-lifetime experience of planning their wedding and making it a fabulous experience for their guests."

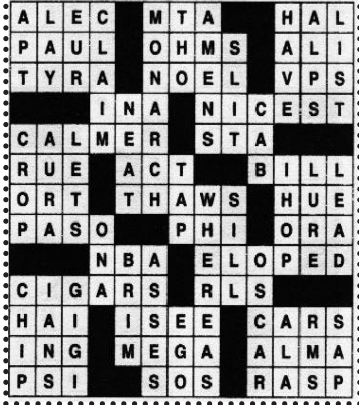
Of the brides who were surveyed, 26 percent said the economy affected their wedding spending, compared to 34 percent in 2009.

Guest lists are down slightly but spending is up as today's brides and grooms dig deeper into their pockets to provide a picture-perfect weekend of events to surround the ceremony. Average wedding cost per guest increased to \$204, compared to \$194 in 2009. Couples are spending more on rehearsal dinners and morning-after brunches. The survey found 27 percent of brides are providing shuttles and buses for their guests.

The most expensive place in the United States, not surprisingly, was Manhattan, where brides spent an average \$76,678. The least expensive weddings were found in Alaska, but even those events cost an average of \$15,504.

A wedding dress last year cost an average of \$1,211, up \$90 from the previous year.

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SXSW film opener sees return of Jim Carrey



AUSTIN (AFP) - Rubber-faced comic Jim Carrey returned to the big screen in fan-pleasing form Friday by way of the opening feature of the South by Southwest (SXSW) film festival. Fans of Carrey filled the vintage Paramount cinema with hoots of laughter at a movie that, unusually for contemporary male-oriented Hollywood adult comedies, kept tasteless humor to a reasonably bearable minimum. This year's lineup of SXSW films includes a Fede Alvaraz remake of Sam Raimi's 1981 horror classic "The Evil Dead," the comedy crime drama "Spring Breakers" starring Vanessa Hudgens and Selena Gomez as bikini-clad restaurant robbers, and a raft of independent documentaries.

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Bieber cancels one of two Portugal dates

LISBON (AFP) - Canadian teen heartthrob Justin Bieber has cancelled one of two scheduled concerts in Portugal next week, just after completing what he admitted had been a rough week in London, promoters said Saturday.

The 19-year-old said he had had a "rough week" and was "human" following the foul-mouthed confrontation with a paparazzi cameraman in London.

Bieber was forced to halt a London show for 20 minutes on Thursday night after complaining of being "light of breath" and was later taken to hospital. A few days, the 19-year-old pop sensation angered some of his fans for being late on stage, then suffered a health scare and was involved in a foul-mouthed confrontation with a photographer.

Music promoters "Everything is new" said on their website that Bieber cancelled his Tuesday Lisbon concert "due to unforeseen circumstances", but insisted the teen idol was still keen to perform on Monday.

A Portuguese newspaper had said that, while the first date was sold out, ticket sales had been suspended for the second night due to insufficient demand.

'Oz' conjures up N. America box office magic



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Big-budget 3D fantasy adventure flick "Oz the Great and Powerful" debuted atop the North American box office with a huge \$80.3 million in weekend ticket sales, industry estimates showed Sunday.

Starring James Franco as a circus magician who ends up on the Yellow Brick Road, "The Wizard of Oz" prequel easily topped last week's leader, "Jack the Giant Slayer," according to box office tracker Exhibitor Relations.

"Jack," which stars Nicholas Hoult in the title role as a young farmhand battling giants to save a princess, brought in \$10 million in its second week, more than enough to keep it in second place but a sharp drop from its debut.

"Identity Thief," a comedy starring Melissa McCarthy and Jason Bateman, dropped a peg to third, with \$6.3 million in receipts in its fifth week in theaters for total earnings of \$116.5 million.

"Dead Man Down," a crime drama starring Colin Ferrell

and Noomi Rapace, debuted in fourth place, picking up \$5.35 million.

Action film "Snitch" starring Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson slipped to fifth with \$5.1 million in weekend sales. Not far behind at \$5.06 million was comedy "21 & Over," which fell from third to sixth place in its second week out.

"Safe Haven" and "Silver Linings Playbook" held on in seventh and eighth place, respectively.

A romantic drama adapted from a novel by Nicholas Sparks, "Safe Haven" made \$3.8 million, while "Silver Linings," with Oscar-winner Jennifer Lawrence and Bradley Cooper, garnered \$3.7 million.

Animated kids movie "Escape from Planet Earth," earned \$3.2 million, putting it in ninth place after four weeks in theaters.

Horror sequel "The Last Exorcism Part II," dropped to 10th place in its second week with a box office take of \$3.1 million.



ALHAURIN EL GRANDE, SPAIN (AFP) - A picture taken on March 5, 2013 shows a mare and her foal grazing at the Association CyD Santamaria, in Alhaurin el Grande, near Malaga. In Spain's boom years, they were a rich family's status symbol: pet horses to ride at the weekend. Now abandoned in the crisis, they are plodding in their tens of thousands to the slaughterhouse. At the end of a bumpy country lane in southern Andalucia, Spain's farming and horse-rearing heartland, Virginia Solera helps run a shelter for the luckier cast-offs -- victims, along with millions of citizens, of Spain's abrupt economic downturn.

Excellent dining, charming ambiance and a breathtaking view found only at La Trattoria El Faro Blanco



Stunning sunset

Over twenty years ago, a very clever person had the idea of placing a cozy little restaurant on the top of the cliff adjacent to the California Lighthouse, offering the most stunning view of Aruba imaginable. La Trattoria el Faro Blanco took over the location some years ago, and the restaurant's quaint trappings, superb selection and amenable staff has made it a one of the island's most popular dining spots ever since.

Savoring the sight of a spectacular Aruban sunset and the tiered layout of the eatery also makes it the ideal spot for marking a special occasion, such as an anniversary or a marriage proposal, as well as a perfect venue for weddings or a celebratory party. An extensive and diverse menu and wine list allows those planning a special festivity will be able to devise a memorable event and management is ready and

willing to help you stay within your budget.

Many have taken note of this singular location as the place to go for that memorable romantic meal, and their reser-

lunch stop while touring, serving from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM, after which visitors can enjoy a light snack from their Pizza Mini Menu until 6:00 PM when they officially open

for dinner, until 11:00 PM.

All these aspects of charming surroundings, dining al fresco with a breathtaking view (or in their enclosed air-conditioned dining room, if you prefer) and fine food makes La Trattoria El Faro the single dining experience that must not be missed before departing Aruba. **Reservations can be made by calling 586-0786 or 586-0787, or via e-mail link at their website, www.aruba-latrattoria.com**, where you can peruse their latest menu, as Chef Alberto is always devising some tasty new specialty to take advantage of what is fresh for the season.



Risotto Frutti de Mare

vation staff reports a waiting list for the rail tables that offer the best unobstructed view, recommending reservations well in advance if this is important to you.

The restaurant is now open from early in the day for refreshments, and is the perfect



Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches



and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of

Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great

demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the least is the future value of the

investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

Sport

Pistorius 'on verge of suicide', says close friend

LONDON (AFP) - Oscar Pistorius is a broken man "on the verge of suicide" as he fights a charge of premeditated murder, a friend of the Paralympic star has said.

Pistorius stands accused of murdering his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp on Valentine's Day, in a case that rocked the nation.

The 26-year-old South African, who has won six gold medals at the Paralympics, claims he shot her through a bathroom door thinking she was an intruder.

Speaking in the upcoming BBC3 documentary "Oscar Pistorius: What Really Happened?", close friend Mike Azzie said the star was "a broken man" since the incident, and his state of mind has worsened since he was tasked with selling his racehorses to raise money to pay for his spiralling legal fees.

Azzie also said Pistorius, who is out on bail, regularly talks about Steenkamp as he awaits his next court appearance on June 4.

"He just always seems to mention Reeva and to ask us to pray for her and her family," Azzie said.

"He has no confidence in his tone of voice and he is just a man that is almost like someone that is walking around in circles and doesn't know where he is going."

"I would say that, just speaking to him, that he is a broken man and that I would go as far to say that he would be on the verge of suicide. It really worries me."

According to the documentary makers, Mentorn Media, police in Johannesburg said they have requested all records of phone calls and messages exchanged between Pistorius and Steenkamp on the day she was killed.

Officers added they were also sifting through a "massive" number of texts on Steenkamp's phone, producers said.

There are no plans for police to enter into a plea bargain with Pistorius's legal team for a lesser charge, the show's makers claimed.

The documentary, will air today.

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Baseball: Champs Japan wins, reach final round

TOKYO (AFP) - Japan's World Baseball Classic title defence roared into life Sunday when they hammered the Netherlands 16-4 to secure a spot in the final round in San Francisco.

The two-time defending champions smashed six home runs at Tokyo Dome to floor the Dutch, who earlier upset South Korea and will now play Cuba, whom they have already beaten in the second round, in a play-off today.

Japan, missing their Major League stars and with a coach under pressure from domestic media, lost to Cuba during the first round and they struggled to an extra-inning win against Taiwan in their opening game of round two.

But on yesterday, opening batter Takashi Toritani hit a



solo homer in the first inning, and then Nobuhiro Matsuda and Seiichi Uchikawa cracked two more in the second to put Japan 6-0 up, while pitcher Kenta Maeda shut out the first five innings.

Atsunori Inaba, with a solo homer, and Yoshio Itoi, with a three-run homer, stretched the

lead at 10-0 by the fourth inning.

Captain Shinnosuke Abe and Matsuda hit a double each in the following two innings to add two runs, while starting pitcher Maeda gave just one hit and struck out nine batters in his five innings.

In the sixth inning, Wladimir Balentien hit a dou-

ble to get three runs for the Netherlands and Andruw Jones added another with a single off relief pitcher Tetsuya Utsumi to reduce the deficit to 12-4 and raise brief hopes of a comeback.

But Hayato Sakamoto fired a grand slam for a 16-4 lead in the seventh, and closer Hideaki Wakui shut out the bottom inning to bring the game to an early halt under the mercy rule.

Japan beat Taiwan 4-3 in an extra inning on Friday after Toritani returned home on a single hit by Hirokazu Ibatani for 3-3.

Japan are now assured of a berth in this month's four-team final series, featuring two sides from the Asian grouping and two more from pools in Puerto Rico and Arizona.

Baseball: Fists fly in Canada win, Puerto Rico advances

PHOENIX (AFP) - Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic booked berths in the second round of the World Baseball Classic while Canada battled its way past Mexico in a game marred by a ninth-inning brawl.

Michael Saunders went four-for-four and Justin Morneau drove in three runs as Canada routed Mexico 10-3 in a Pool D contest that saw seven players ejected following a benches-clearing fight.

One of those was Mexican pitcher Arnold Leon who drilled Canadian batter Rene Tosoni in the right scapula, leading to the brawl with Canada leading 9-3 in the top

of the ninth inning.

The wild scene came moments after Canadian catcher Chris Robinson began the inning with a bunt single. That prompted Mexico third baseman Luis Cruz to apparently tell Leon to throw at the next batter, Tosoni.

After being hit, Tosoni walked towards the mound and both benches emptied. Cruz, who plays for the Los Angeles Dodgers, threw the first punch at a Canadian player and the fists started flying. Cruz was not thrown out of the game.

Canada pitching coach Denis Boucher was hit in the face by a bottle thrown by

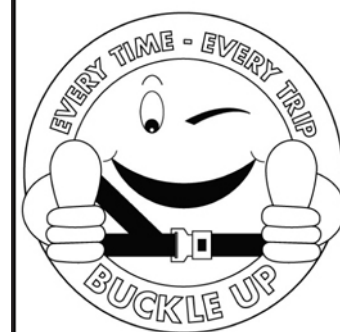
Mexican fans who were standing behind the dugout hurling objects at the players and coaches, including baseballs.

Walker said he tried to act as a peacemaker and at the height of the brawl he grabbed Mexico's Alfredo Aceves, who plays for the Boston Red Sox.

By the time play resumed, four Mexican players, Leon, Oliver Perez, Eduardo Arredondo and Aceves, and three Canadian players, Tosoni, Pete Orr and Jay Johnson had been thrown out.

Tournament officials said they would review the incident to see if further penalties like suspensions were warranted.

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Tennis: Nadal triumphant in hard-court return

INDIAN WELLS (AFP) - Rafael Nadal made a triumphant return to hard-court tennis on Saturday, booking his third-round berth at Indian Wells with a straight-sets victory over American Ryan Harrison.

Seeded only fifth in a tournament he won in 2007 and 2009, Nadal was nevertheless squarely in the spotlight as he played his first hard-court match in 346 days.

After a few tense moments in the opening set, he came through with flying colors, beating 73rd-ranked American Harrison 7-6 (7/3), 6-2 in one hour and 33 minutes.

Nadal was sidelined for

seven months recovering from a left-knee injury. The former world No. 1 got his comeback off to a blazing start with three clay-court tournaments in Latin America, with one runner-up finish and two titles.

But he had not played a hard-court event since pulling out in Miami with left knee tendinitis last March, and he had not been sure he would be ready to test the knee on the punishing cement this month.

Nadal moved closer to a projected quarter-final match-up with old foe Roger Federer, the defending champion who cruised into the third round with a 6-2, 6-3 victory over Uzbekistan's Denis Istomin.

Federer wrapped up the match in 57 minutes and did not face a break point.

The Swiss great, seeded second behind world No. 1 Novak Djokovic, is seeking a first tournament triumph of 2013 after being denied title repeats at Rotterdam and Dubai.

Football: Ronaldo double sees Madrid past Celta Vigo

MADRID (AFP) - Real Madrid registered their sixth consecutive victory in all competitions as two goals from Cristiano Ronaldo led them to a 2-1 victory over Celta Vigo.

Despite dominating for long spells in the first-half, Madrid couldn't find a way past Celta goalkeeper Javi Varas until just after the hour mark when Ronaldo swept home a loose ball from close range.

Jose Mourinho again choose to rotate his side after their 2-1 victory against Manchester United in midweek with only Lopez, Sami Khedira, Mesut Ozil and Ronaldo retaining their places in the side.

Ronaldo's two goals upped his league total to 26, equalling the amount of goals that Celta Vigo has scored as a club this season.

It took some time for Madrid to alter the scoreboard, but it came in the 60th minute in usual fashion. A deep rip couldn't find its way through a



clump of players, but it just so happened to stop right in front of Ronaldo, who finished it past the goalkeeper.

Madrid's defense was far from effective in the second half, as Celta Vigo were pushing the ball down their throats at will. Much of that has to fall on Pepe, the central leader of the defense.

Celta's notable forward proved to be pesky for the Madrid backs all throughout the second half, and it paid off as he got his side on the scoreboard in the 62nd minute with

a shot that tipped in off a defender.

He had many chances later on to tie up the contest, but couldn't get one past despite having himself a solid match overall.

Madrid will play next against Mallorca at home Saturday, while Vigo travels to Deportivo to play a Friday match.



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Football: Alexis and Messi goals see Barca past Depor

MADRID (AFP) - AFP) - Barcelona assistant manager Jordi Roura was delighted finally to keep a clean sheet as the Catalans extended their lead at the top of the table to 14 points with a 2-0 win over Deportivo la Coruna on Saturday night.

With a huge game to come against AC Milan in the Champions League on Tuesday, Roura named a much-changed side with Lionel Messi only starting on the bench.

However, after Alexis Sanchez had given Barca a deserved half-time lead, Messi came on and sealed the three points with a lovely finish two minutes from time to extend his

scoring streak in the league to 17 matches.

It was ending an unwanted streak that Roura was most pleased with though as Barca didn't concede for the first time in 14 games stretching back to early January.

Depor meanwhile remain rooted to the foot of the table and it was easy to see why as they failed to create even one clear-cut opening against a makeshift Barca side.

The Galicians are eight points off safety and having won only three games so far this season, manager Fernando Vazquez believes they have to win seven of their remaining 11 to survive.

Deportivo's chances of survival weren't helped by a second consecutive win for Mallorca as two goals from Alejandro Alfaro gave them a 2-1 victory over Sevilla.

Alvaro Negredo had briefly levelled for Sevilla in the second-half but Alfaro's winner 24 minutes from time moves Gregorio Manzano's men to within a point of safety.

Malaga, who are also in Champions League action in midweek as they try to overturn a 1-0 deficit against Porto, remain in fourth after a 1-1 draw away to Valladolid, whilst Rayo Vallecano kept up their hopes of qualifying for Europe with a 2-0 win over Espanyol.



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Boxing: Hopkins makes boxing history at 48



NEW YORK (AFP) - Bernard Hopkins became the oldest boxer to win a major world championship, breaking his own record by beating Tavoris Cloud at the age of 48.

Hopkins scored a unanimous 12-round decision to dethrone Cloud, who is 17 years his junior, for the International Boxing Federation's light-heavyweight title and beat his own record.

"The 40 and up club still rules," Hopkins said. "I got a history. I got a history of destroying young champions and you never seen them again."

Hopkins, who goes by the nickname 'The Executioner' was 46 in 2011 when he beat

Canada's Jean Pascal to win the World Boxing Council light-heavyweight crown.

Now 25 years after his first professional fight, Hopkins made history again in his 31st championship bout.

Hopkins won on all three judges scorecards, 117-111, 116-112 and 116-112 against the previously unbeaten Cloud at the Barclays Center arena in Brooklyn, New York.

He connected on 41 percent of his overall punches and landed 110 out of 227 power punches.

Hopkins landed one of his best punches in the sixth round which opened a nasty cut over the left eye of fellow

American Cloud, who was making his fifth title defence.

His trainers worked to close the cut between rounds but each time they did it would start bleeding again in the middle of the later rounds as season-veteran Hopkins focused on it.

Cloud threw 650 total punches to Hopkins 417 but he found himself in trouble in the ring after the cut.

Referee Earl Brown ruled it to have come from an accidental headbutt, but TV replays showed Hopkins did the damage with a well-timed left uppercut.

Hopkins, a former two-division champ, joked in the ring afterwards that he plans to fight another five years, well into his 50s.

Hopkins beat Pascal to become the oldest to win a major title, surpassing legendary heavyweight George Foreman's mark of 45. Hopkins improves to 53-6 with two drawn and 32 knockouts.

Cloud, who was only 6 years old when Hopkins first stepped in the ring, drops to 24-1.

Hopkins had not fought since dropping a 12-round majority decision to Chad Dawson in April 2012.

Boxing: Mendez takes IBF junior-lightweight title



COSTA MESA (AFP) - Dominican fighter Argenis Mendez captured the International Boxing Federation junior lightweight title on Saturday by knocking out Mexico's Juan Carlos Salgado in the fourth round.

Mendez avenged a 2011 loss to Salgado in his only prior world title bout by landing a hard left to the head and sending the champion to the canvas, where he was called out 45 seconds into the fourth round.

Mendez, who also sent Salgado to the canvas in the opening round with a hard right to the jaw, improved to 21-2 with

his 11th career stoppage inside the distance while Salgado fell to 26-2 with one drawn.

Salgado defeated Mendez by unanimous decision in 2011 to claim the vacant title and he had defended the crown twice last year, both by unanimous decisions, most recently over Argentina's Jonathan Victor Bargas last August.

Mendez won for the third time since losing to Salgado, having taken a unanimous decision over Mexico's Matin Honorio last July to book himself another chance at the throne.



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